UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode #62

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11:30 to 12:30 P.M. C.D.S.T. MAY 4, 1933 THURSDAY

ORCHESTRA:

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" —

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET

ANNOUNCER: What is a National Forest? It is an area administered by the Federal Government for the protection, conservation, and development of its forest resources in the interests of national welfare. Its resources include timber, game and wild life, forage for livestock, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and vitally important water supplies which must be preserved by the maintenance of protective vegetation on the watersheds. Our country has nearly one hundred and fifty of these national forests, under the capable management of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers, whose guiding principle in looking after the forest resources is "Conservation by wise use." Each week at this time we visit one of the great national forests where our old friend Ranger Jim Robbins and his young assistant, Jerry Quick, are carrying on. Let's see what's going on today at the Pine Cone Ranger Station —

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JERRY: (COMING IN) Hello, Jim.

JIM: Well, - howdy stranger. Back from the wilds already, hey?

JERRY: Yeah. The work up at the bug camp was going along so nice I thought I might as well come back in this morning. I knew you'd be needing help with all the other work that's piled up.

JIM: I sure do. -- How soon they going to finish up that bug control job, Jerry?

JERRY: It won't be long now. Pete's going to phone in when they're about through, and I'll go up again and help break up camp.

JIM: Uh huh. I see.

JERRY: I stopped by for the mail a few minutes ago, Jim, but the post-master said Mrs. Robbins had already picked it up.

JIM: I s'pect Bess's stopped somewhere along the wayside. She isn't back yet.

JERRY: Here comes Mrs. Robbins now.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

BESS: (COMING IN) Here's the mail, Jim -- Why, Jerry! When did you get back?

JERRY: Hello, Mrs. Robbins. I just got in.

BESS: I didn't think you'd be back so soon.

JERRY: Well, I was only up there three days, but I feel like I'd been away a month.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Kinda let your whiskers grow while you were up there this time, didn't you?

JERRY: Yeah.

BESS: I should say you did! Jerry, you're a sight.

JERRY: Thanks.

BESS: You look almost as bad as Jim used to when he came in from a long field trip.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) You ought to've seen some of the boys when they came in after a whole season in the back country. They'd have to introduce the kids to their own father sometimes. -- (CHUCKLES) Ever hear the squib one of the boys wrote about the old time ranger's return after a long field trip?

JERRY: No, I don't believe I did.

JIM: It goes something like this -- the Ranger's child is s'posed to be talking:

Who's the stranger, mother dear?
Look! he knows us! Ain't he queer? -
Hush, my own, don't talk so wild;
That's your father, dearest child. -
He's my father? No such thing!
Daddy left us late last spring! -
Father didn't leave, you minx;
Father's been out in the sticks.
But the summer's past, so he
Has no place to go, you see!
No place left for him to roam,
That's why he is coming home.
Kiss him. He won't bite you, child,
All these forest guys look wild.

JERRY: (LAUGHING) That's delicious. Gosh, I hope I don't look that bad!

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, I guess we can put up with you. Let's see what's in the mail, Jerry.

JERRY: (RIPS OPEN ENVELOPE) Okay. Here's a note from the Supervisor's office.

JIM: What's it say?

JERRY: It says we should be prepared at once for - uh - for the establishment of a 200-man camp at designated site on our District, - and to supervise program of useful work for 200 men of the President's Emergency Conservation Work Corps.

JIM: Uh huh. Write and tell 'em we're already prepared, Jerry.

JERRY: Okay.

BESS: But Jim, can you make work for two hundred men on such short notice?

JIM: We don't make work for anybody, Bess. The whole idea of this emergency conservation work program is to give a measure of unemployment relief through the performance of useful, necessary work in the public interest. We have our regular plan of improvement work for our District. All we need to do is to speed it up by working on a larger scale.

JERRY: Yeah - a lot faster than we ever expected.

BESS: Well, what are you going to have them do?

JIM: Lots of things, Bess. I've wished for a long time that I could find a way to thin out that thicket of young trees along the Bald Peak road. Now we can do it.

JERRY: Yeah. It will sure help that stand of saplings if we can take out about half of them. It's a mess now.

JIM: And there's the old Black Mountain burn. It's been on the planting plan for ten years but we never have had the money to plant it. And the truck trails into the Ragged Top country and that area back of Windy Mountain.

JERRY: Say, if we could have run trucks in there last summer when we had the big fire ---

JIM: Yep, it would have saved a lot of time and money.

JERRY: And when we had to pack poor Billy out on a stretcher on our shoulders. Boy! That was a terrible job. I thought we never could make it.

JIM: I want to get all that brush and rotten down timber along the highway piled and burned. It's a bad fire hazard now.

JERRY: It will make that road look 100% better too.

JIM: Then there's the fire break along the mountain above Winding Creek. We've had fires several times here in town when I was afraid the fire would sweep up that mountain while we were busy trying to save the homes. Or, suppose a big fire should come over the ridge with a wind behind it, what chance would we have to save the town? With a good fire break on the slope, we would have a place to start fighting it with some chance of success.

JERRY: Yeah there's plenty of useful work to be done.

JIM: Yep. That's not half of what I've got planned.

BESS: Of course there's plenty of work. I should have known. But how can you get ready for so many men?

JIM: It's pretty short notice all right, but we can do it, can't we, Jerry?

JERRY: Never saw a job we couldn't do.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) That's the old spirit.

BESS: How soon are these men coming, Jim?

JIM: We can be ready for 'em any time now. Get out some maps, Jerry. I'll show you the set-up.

JERRY: Okay, Jim -- (RATTLE LARGE SHEETS OF PAPER)

JIM: There - clear off that desk a little so we can spread them out.

BESS: Here, I'll help you. I've been just aching to get at this desk for a long time.

JIM: Here! Here! Now! Go easy there, (CHUCKLES) I said clear it a little. You'll have everything all mixed up so I can't find anything. Let's take the maps in on the dining room table, Jerry.

BESS: I thought so! Jim Robbins, you're hopeless.

JERRY: (MOVING WITH RATTLE OF MAPS) That's a good idea, Jim. Here's plenty of room. (MORE RATTLE AND SPREAD OF MAPS) There! Now what is the set-up to be, Jim?

JIM: Well, there's a long letter here - let's see (READS) It's to be called emergency conservation work. It's to be useful work for the good of the forest. - The purpose is to build men at the same time we build the forests. -- Young men eighteen to twenty-five years are being enrolled. -- There will be 200 men in each camp. -- Army will establish and run camps with Army officers in charge --

JERRY: Where do we come in then?

JIM: Just a moment - you're about one jump ahead. Forest Officers will take charge of the men during work hours and supervise their labor.

JERRY: Oh, I see. - Well, that simplifies matters for us don't it?

JIM: Yep -- All we have to do is lay out enough useful work in the vicinity of each camp to keep 200 men busy and then superintend the work.

JERRY: I see.

JIM: But it's going to be a big job just the same, Jerry. A big job and a big responsibility. It's going to be our responsibility to build men as well as trails. You see, Jerry, a lot of these boys have grown up in a world that has nothing to offer them; they've no way to turn. Some of 'em never have had a job. Some of them are well educated. At an age when they ought to be facing life with exalted ambitions and the highest hopes, they're discouraged and hopeless. It's our job to help these boys to get back on their feet. Build up their morals as well as their muscles.

BESS: I'm so glad we can do something to help.

JIM: Yep. The job's going to require all the judgment and tact we can muster, Jerry. Some of these boys won't know how to do a day's work; some will have the "aw-what's-the-use-spirit;" some will still be weak from long privation and want. It will be up to us to understand them and show them how to work and help 'em realize that good honest work makes for a fuller life. When these boys leave our forest, we'll want them to go out with not only a better appreciation of the value of forests but a bigger enthusiasm and a new purpose in life - ready to face the world with a steady eye -

JERRY: I get it, Jim - we're going to build men as well as forests. -- Well, we'll give the job everything we've got.

JIM: You bet, that's the old ranger spirit.

BESS: Jim, that's the best sermon you have preached in a long time.

JIM: (LAUGHS) Well, now I've got the sermon off my chest, let's see what else is in the mail before we start locating camps.

JERRY: Here's a couple of invoices, and (RIPS ENVELOPE) - wait, here's a letter from that Mr.Strauss, Jim.

BESS: Mr. Strauss? Who's he?

JIM: He's the fellow that wants a permit to graze five hundred head of cattle on the High Park range. I turned him down last week.

JERRY: He says here that he's coming to see you Thursday with a representative of the Willow Glen Bank. -- Thursday? - that's today, Jim.

JIM: Yep. We've got some good range over in Long Hollow for him, but it seems he's got his head set on gettin' that particular High Park range.

JERRY: Without rhyme or reason --

JIM: Well, it's closest to where his cattle are, of course --

BESS: Jim -

JIM: Huh?

BESS: Jim, I forgot to tell you I saw two men down the road just now changing a tire. They looked like they were from the city, the way they were dressed.

JIM: Uh hun. I s'pect maybe that was Strauss and the banker. (CHUCKLES) Changing a tire, huh? That won't improve their dispositions any.

(KNOCK ON DOOR)

BESS: There's someone knocking, now. Maybe it's those men, (GOING OFF) so I'll leave you to face the music.

JIM: All right. (CALLS) Come in.

(DOOR OPENS)

JIM: Howdy, gentlemen.

STRAUSS: (GRUFFLY) Mr. Robbins - I've come to see about that High Park range. - This is Mr. Bush, from the Willow Glen bank, -

JIM: Mr. Bush - glad to know you. Meet my assistant, Mr. Quick.

BUSH: How do you do, sir. I suppose you're in training so you can take Mr. Robbins' place some day, eh?

JERRY: Well, I don't know about that. Mr. Robbins'll be here quite a while yet - and after I learn the job, they may give me a ranger position on some other district.

STRAUSS: (GRUMPY) Well, never mind that. We came to see about that grazing permit.

BUSH: Yes - Mr. Robbins, Mr. Strauss here was telling me about his conversation with you last week —

JIM: Yep. We talked over the situation.

BUSH: I understand one of your old permittees is dropping out — not going to graze his 500 head of cattle in High Park this year.

JIM: Yes, that's right. It's Pete Barlow. He's selling his cattle. He's been running cattle a long time now, but he says he's getting too old.

BUSH: (CRISP BUSINESS-LIKE TONE) Well then, Mr. Robbins, that's just right to handle the 500 head for us.

JIM: I'm afraid not, Mr. Bush. The situation is this - the range in High Park has been grazed too heavily in the past, and the number of cattle up there will have to be reduced. The other permittees on that range also agree on that.

BUSH: But you have been grazing two thousand head up there, haven't you? Why make the cut now?

JIM: Well, I've been kinda waiting till the number of cattle could be reduced without imposing undue hardship on the owners. Now that Pete Barlow is selling out, that makes it possible to cut down the number without injury to any of the permittees.

BUSH: I think you can and will give us this range, Mr. Robbins. Now here --

JIM: Wait a minute. I know quite a bit about that High Park range and about cattle. I've known these other men who graze their stock up there --

STRAUSS: (CUTTING IN, SARCASTIC) Friends of yours, eh?

JIM: Yes sir. Every square-shooting man on the forest is a friend of mine.-- Now look here. There's a difference between running a lot of cattle on that range, say two thousand, and bringing them off lean and weak in the fall, and running say one thousand head and bringing them off strong and fat.

BUSH: Well?

JIM: Then there's other things. That range has been going back for several years. The good grass is giving way to weeds. The wet, spongey bottoms are disappearing.

STRAUSS: That's due to the dry weather we've been having.

JERRY: The weather records show that for the past several years there's been a normal amount of snow and rainfall here.

STRAUSS: Huh? The devil with the weather records. It's drier in this country than it used to be.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Memory's pretty poor as a rule when it comes to weather, Mr. Strauss. We've been keeping records of rain and snowfall here at the Pine Cone Ranger Station for a good many years now. Jerry's keen for statistics and that sort of thing; he's pretty well up on 'em.

JERRY: The Farmers' Ditch Company sent us their stream measurements on High Park Creek, too, Jim - that showed the volume of water fluctuated a lot more in the last five years than any previous five year period they had records of.

JIM: Yep. The point is, that there's a very definite relation between the amount of water in High Park Creek and heavy grazing on that range. The wet meadows are the sponges that help to hold back the water -- and they're disappearing due to trampling and over-grazing.

BUSH: Well, what's wrong with that? We own a lot of land down below ourselves. The farmers down there <u>need</u> more water.

JIM: That's true enough. But we can't put tin roofs and waterspouts over these mountains for 'em. What we <u>can</u> do is protect our wet meadows so that the water oozes out slowly and continuously, and then it can be handled and used to the best advantage.

BUSH: Well, this is getting a long ways from range for our five hundred cattle. Do you have other applications for range in High Park?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) No lack of applications, Mr. Bush. Like taxes, they're always with us.

BUSH: Well, what do you say, yes or no?

JIM: Sorry, Mr. Bush, but we can't take care of you in High Park.

BUSH: So that's it, eh? May I use your phone?

JIM: Sure. Go to it.

BUSH: Just wanted to phone my attorney to ---

JIM: I don't believe he can do much for you.

BUSH: Huh? (RINGS PHONE) Hello - hello - Willow Glen operator? -- Get me Main 5358. -- Yes. -- Hello, Attorney Matthews' office? -- He isn't in? -- I see. -- No, no message. (HANGS UP)

JIM: That's too bad. (OFF-HAND MANNER) I was just goin' to mention some surplus range we've got over in Long Hollow - over toward Blue Lake. Not a bad piece of range, either ---

STRAUSS: Out of the question! Way over toward Blue Lake?

JIM: It's about twenty miles. Stock ought to do pretty well up there.

BUSH: You say it's twenty miles over to that range?

STRAUSS: It'd take us two days to get the cattle over there in decent shape.

BUSH: Yes, that's right, Strauss. -- Uh -- Might be well to look it over, though. -- Could you run over there with me today, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: Yep. Right now. Ready to go?

BUSH: Yes.

STRAUSS: (FADING OFF) Look here, Mr.Bush, I can't see the idea of range way over there at all --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (COMING IN) Oh, Bess --

BESS: (COMING UP) Well, so you came back. The idea! You two running off without any dinner.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well now. I guess I plum forgot about dinner. Jerry didn't though. All he talked about coming back was how hungry he was.

JERRY: (LAUGHING) No, I didn't either, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: (HUFFY) Well, I hope you're both good and hungry. It'll serve you right - cause you're going to have to wait till supper-time now. - (SOFTENING) except for what you can find on the kitchen table.

JERRY: Oh boy! Lead me to the kitchen table!

JIM: (CHUCKLING) See there? -- Well, Bess, you should've heard Jerry telling a wise city banker and this Mr. Strauss all about grass and range values --

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Maybe I did let my enthusiasm run away with me, Jim, but gosh! You ought to see that grass! No over-grazing in Long Hollow yet.

BESS: Did you convince those men that you knew best about the range?

JERRY: Jim convinced 'em that he knew his range all right. Gosh! Before they left they were talking about buying up all the cattle in the country.

(FADE OUT)

ANNOUNCER:

Well, there's another little matter settled, and everybody satisfied. -- Careful regulation of grazing on the open ranges of the national forests is serving to maintain and improve the forage, and to gradually increase the permanent carrying capacity of the ranges, at the same time that it protects vitally important watersheds from the damaging effects of overgrazing.

"Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" comes to you each week at this time, as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

er/6:00 P.M.
May 3, 1933.